



America's Voices on Border Security

Arizona Officials Tout Successful Statewide Initiatives to Help Eliminate Non-Citizen Voting

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**--Andrew P. Thomas, County Attorney
Maricopa County, Arizona**

The House Committee on Administration is holding two field hearings today to examine the impact of non-citizen voting, and how the integrity of the federal voting process can best be protected. At the hearing in Phoenix, Arizona, the committee will hear from a panel of officials and experts who will speak about that state's successful efforts to combat non-citizen voting. Below are excerpts from the prepared testimony of some of the witnesses who will be testifying:

Andrew P. Thomas, County Attorney Maricopa County, Arizona

"I commend this committee for considering legislation that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and valid identification to cast a ballot in federal elections. Arizona voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 200 in the 2004 general election. ... which requires those registering to vote to offer proof of citizenship and requires voters to provide identification at the polls."

"The voters of this state feel, and I agree, that these changes in law are vital to protect the voting franchise. When non-citizens vote, their votes undermine the franchise of all American voters. Voter fraud unquestionably has occurred in Arizona."

“The citizens of Arizona have realized that producing proof of citizenship and identification are not burdensome requirements, and doing this is a very small price to pay for protecting their right to vote. Law enforcement likewise should do its part to safeguard this important right. I applaud Congress for looking into these matters and taking seriously the duty of preserving our most basic birthright as Americans.”

The Honorable Jan Brewer

Arizona Secretary of State

“As you already know, Arizonans overwhelmingly passed Proposition 200 which requires all new voter registration applications to be accompanied by sufficient proof of citizenship, and voters must now present identification at the polls before receiving a ballot. Clearly, the voters of Arizona have shown their strong support for stricter requirements surrounding both voter registration and voting at the polling place as an additional tool in combating potential voter fraud.”

“ID at the polls has now been successfully implemented at three separate local elections in Arizona. Each time with very positive results. ... the fears of harassment and intimidation of voters that were previously espoused by critics; have not come to fruition.”

“(P)roof of citizenship” requirements for voter registration have now been fully implemented in all 15 counties of Arizona for over a year and a half. At the time of passage there were many fears and anxieties that predicted voter registration would drop and a lower voter turnout would result. Such has not been the case. In fact, Arizona’s current voter registration is at record highs.”

“There simply was not widespread problems with this law as many feared. The truth is under our procedure no one – I repeat NO ONE – is turned away at the polls.”

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